

West Newton, Nov. 23^d 1857

To Rev. Mr. Lothrop,

Dear Sir,

A few months ago,

I wrote to Mr. Francis Williams, of the High School, concerning a teacher in the Spanish language.

He informed me that you wished to have a class in Spanish formed in that school. I have waited for your return from ~~Europe~~ to speak to you concerning a friend of mine who greatly desires to procure scholars. I called at your house last week, for that purpose, but found you absent.

The lady of whom I speak is a well-educated refined person, of unexceptionable character and manners. She belonged to the genteel class in Old Spain, and speaks pure Castilian, which you are doubtless aware is not the case with those who come from S. America and Cuba. She speaks English quite well now, having been in this country four years. During most of that time she has been my intimate friend, and for the last year and a half she has been a member of my household. I can therefore speak of her excellent qualities from my

own knowledge. She taught both in families and schools in New York, and was always extremely liked by her employers. Since she has been here she has taught the principal teacher of the Normal School, who gives her high recommendations. In New York she taught several young men and merchants, who wished to acquire Spanish on account of their connections with California, Cuba, &c.

She would be glad to teach either gentlemen, ladies, or children. With regard to the terms, and other arrangements, she would do whatever you recommended as most judicious.

If you can aid her in procuring scholars in Boston, you will do a service to a most estimable person, who has suffered much, and who has great need of profitable employment.

Yours very respectfully,

L. Maria Child.

P. S. I am the sister of Dr. Convers Francis,
of Harvard University. Your predecessor, Mr. J. G.
Palfrey, can inform you whether my testimony
is to be relied upon.

Mr. D. Child,

Rev. Mr. Lothrop.

Court St.

Boston.
Mass ^{to}



West Newton, Dec. 21st 1851

Dear Sir,

Your polite and very obliging letter was duly received; for which I thank you. The Spanish lady in question will call upon you in the course of a fortnight. You style her "a young lady"; but she is thirty years old, and has been sobered by much affliction. A very wealthy uncle in Madrid adopted her when she was an orphan of a few years old. At twenty, she married the son of a rich and aristocratic family in Seville. Having been entirely educated in France, her family had not an opportunity to know his real character. He proved to be so hopelessly, so brutally dissipated, that after five years of misery with him, she took the desperate resolution of leaving him, and coming to this country. Her uncle in the mean time had failed, and was in great pecuniary embarrassment. Since she has been here, she has struggled heroically with a degree of adversity that would have driven many a woman mad. Her character, being naturally strong, has grown stronger in the cold storms of life. The boys and their teachers will respect her, because she respects herself.

She taught gentlemen and ladies in New York, and they all liked her extremely. Here in West Newton, Mr. Stearns, teacher in the Normal School, has taken Spanish lessons with her, and was extremely pleased with her manners as a lady, and her capability as a teacher. I am acquainted with a highly respectable Spanish merchant in New York, who was intimate with her uncle in Madrid, and who knew her in Seville, after her unfortunate marriage.

He speaks in the highest terms of her. He would gladly have loaned her money, when he found how poor she was; but her pride of character led her to resist any obligation to a gentleman, though she believed his motives to be kind and honorable.

I am very desirous that she should obtain scholars; for she is very poor, and my own circumstances are so exceedingly straitened, that I cannot assist her as I should like to do. If she can only make a beginning in Boston, I am sure that her merits will soon be appreciated. With regard to the hours of teaching, the terms, &c, she will be entirely guided by your advice. I merely wish that she should be guarded

on the one hand from charging too high, and on the other hand from lowering her stand as a teacher by charging too low.

Please accept my cordial thanks for the interest you have taken in this matter, and believe me Very Respectfully Yours,

L. Maria Child.



Ms Childs-
1857



Rev. S. K. Lothrop.

Court St.

Boston.

Mass^{ts}.



Ms 3431 (6)